

## **Scholarship and Undergraduate Retention First Program (SURF)**

### **Program Purpose:**

The purpose of the SURF Program is to foster undergraduate participation and retention through integrative learning by intentionally engaging and promoting high impact curricular and co-curricular experiences for academically talented students starting early in their academic development and culminating with a research/capstone project in their 4<sup>th</sup> year. The SURF Program requires students to have a faculty mentor fostering their academic development through four years of study.

### **Benefits to the College and to the University**

- Recruitment of academically strong students
- Improves retention of all student groups
- Improves learning outcomes
- Enhances faculty development
- Serves to develop a “signature” feature of the College/University
- Promotes Integrative Learning
- Serves to work complementary with the Honors College and School Honors Program
- Identifies students who could potentially apply for Graduate School at EIU

### **Benefits to Students:**

- Builds students confidence, perseverance, and sense of purpose
- Prepares students to think critically, apply knowledge, and communicate ideas
- Inspires students to be active learners and producers of new knowledge or scholarship
- Students are more likely to complete their undergraduate education
- Students are more likely to enter graduate school or professional school
- Employers notice resumes that show undergraduate research experience
- Completion of a research project demonstrates initiative, creativity, organization

### **Benefits to Faculty:**

- Opportunity to mentor students in a personal and collaborative setting
- More incentive to stay active in their field
- Greater capability of securing grant funds
- Invigorated classroom teaching
- Sense of pride in helping to shape young professionals
- Opportunity to build collaborations with colleagues

(D.F. Brakke, M.L. Crowe, and K.K. Karukstis, “Perspective: Reasons why deans and provosts (and presidents) should value, support, and encourage undergraduate research,” Council on Undergraduate Research, Quarterly 30, 10-14, 2009.)

### **Administration of the Program:**

Coordinator: Associate Dean Snyder

Faculty Mentors

Academic Advisors

### **Program Sequence**

**1<sup>st</sup> Year:** Student identifies field of study and declares a major/pre-major or interest in one of the areas in LCBAS (Identification of students could begin in freshman courses. Faculty identify and approach academically talented students to make them aware of the SURF Program and to determine their interest in participating. Interested students complete an application. Transfer students are welcome to participate in the SURF Program.

- Brochure to market the program
- Application attached to the brochure
- Website to outline the details of program participation

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year:** Student demonstrates academic talent with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher based on all undergraduate course work. Student is involved in a student organization and a service learning activity.

- Student attends a preliminary meeting to learn more about continued participation in the SURF Program. The meeting will include interested students, Associate Dean Snyder, Dean Stimac, Honors Coordinators, Academic Advisors, potential faculty mentors. The meeting will serve to ensure commitment from the students and to explain the expectations of the program. The student will be preliminarily paired with a faculty mentor.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Year:** Student is paired with a faculty member in their area of interest and will work in collaboration with the faculty mentor on a teaching, research, or service related project culminating in a reflective paper regarding their experience and a poster presentation.

- Student signs up for an independent study or Honors Research course
- Faculty mentor oversees independent study or research
- If the student is in the Honors Program they will register for the Honors Research course.

**4<sup>th</sup> Year:** Student will present their paper to an internal and/or external audience. Students can apply to receive a \$500 SURF award. The student application and faculty recommendation form are attached.

- If the student is in the Honors Program, they will receive matching funds from the Honors College.
- Students can potentially present their research at Showcase EIU, NCUR, and/or a professional conference in their area of study.
- Recognition Ceremony: Student will receive a plaque and the faculty mentor will receive a Faculty Mentor Award

- Potentially 3-4 awards will available per year (award is subject to the availability of funds).

Students must be enrolled at EIU to receive their monetary award. Appropriate student research may be qualitative, quantitative, or experimental projects in which students gather and synthesize data and which can be written and presented in a poster format. Students who have completed independent studies, research courses, honors theses or other scholarly projects are strongly encouraged to apply. Students will be encouraged to present their research in a professional setting (a local or state conference, student association/club meeting, classes). Interested students must complete the attached application form which includes an abstract of the research and submit a completed faculty recommendation form. The applications will be evaluated on the quality of the research. Clarity and organization of the research summary are very important.

Recipients who have a tuition/fee balance will not receive the monetary award, but will have the award applied directly toward the students' outstanding balance.

Questions concerning the SURF award, application procedures, or the SURF program should be directed to the office of the Dean, Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences, Room 4800 Lumpkin Hall.

**LUMPKIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND APPLIED SCIENCES**

**SURF PROGRAM APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E# \_\_\_\_\_

School/Department \_\_\_\_\_ Major/Area of Interest \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Local/Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_

Current GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Mentor \_\_\_\_\_

School Chair's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach and return to Dr. Jeanne Snyder; Associate Dean, Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences, Room 4800 Lumpkin Hall. For additional information or questions, please feel free to call 581-3526 or email [jrsnyder@eiu.edu](mailto:jrsnyder@eiu.edu).

## **SURF AWARD**

### **Student Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-# \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Local/Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Local Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Junior \_\_\_\_\_ Senior \_\_\_\_\_ Date Project Began \_\_\_\_\_  
Major \_\_\_\_\_ Faculty Research Mentor/School \_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Project \_\_\_\_\_

1. Summarize the research project. Include the primary hypothesis or research question governing the research project. (200 word limit)
2. Briefly describe the steps taken to complete your project. Also describe the methodology or procedures used. (200 word limit)
3. Please summarize the results of the research project and discuss any important implications of your findings. (200 word limit)
4. How do you plan to disseminate the results of your project? List names of any presentations, conferences, or journals to which you may submit your project.

**SURF AWARD**

**Faculty Recommendation**

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-# \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Research Mentor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Project \_\_\_\_\_

**Faculty Research Mentor:** Please evaluate your student researcher and this proposal. Please consider the student's participation in the research, his or her progress, and his or her abilities. Please attach this recommendation to the student's application and forward it to the office of the

Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences, Room 4800 Lumpkin Hall

Faculty Research Mentor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

School Chair Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_